

Richmond Dispatch

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THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1909.

DEMOCRATIC PROTECTION AND THE VIRGINIA DEMOCRATIC PRESS.

The Fredericksburg Free Lance, of Tuesday, observes:

It is a remarkable coincidence that so far no Democratic newspaper of any prominence North or South, so far as we have been able to ascertain, has indorsed the position or the action of those Democrats in Congress who have deserted their party principles in order to vote for high duties on various products, such as lumber, iron, ore, lead, etc.

Evidently the Free Lance has not been reading its Virginia exchanges. The Petersburg Index-Appeal supported Representative Lassiter in his demand for a higher duty on peanuts. The Danville Register supported Representative Saunders in his demand for a higher duty on tobacco. The Lynchburg News supported Representative Glass in his vote for a duty on lumber. The Newport News Press and the Newport News Times-Herald supported Representative Jones in his vote for ship subsidies, a measure deemed so objectionable by his party that only four Democrats in the House could stomach it. These newspapers rise first to the mind because they happened to be most keenly interested in fostering some local industry out of the public treasury. Many others, on one schedule or another, have allied themselves with these. Still others have indorsed all Democrats "who have deserted their party principles in order to vote for high duties," by subscribing to the blanket declaration that since there was to be a division of the booty anyway, Virginia Democrats ought to insist on getting their share.

When our Fredericksburg contemporaries assume that "no Democratic newspaper of any prominence North or South" has supported the delivery of the Democratic party into the hands of Mr. Aldrich, it thus ignores conditions in its own State. The facts are exactly the reverse of the Free Lance's assumption. Of all the Democratic newspapers in the larger cities of Virginia—in Norfolk, Newport News, Portsmouth, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Danville, Petersburg—there are only two which have steadily and indignantly protested against this betrayal of the party. These two are The Times-Dispatch and the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

The overwhelming majority of the State papers have, on the other hand, supported the protectionist labors of Virginia's Democratic representatives, either through silent acquiescence or through lending their columns to worn arguments such as they used to defend in the mouths of Republicans.

If the Free Lance wants a truer light on the attitude of its Virginia contemporaries in regard to the high protection stand of Democratic spokesmen in Congress, it will find it in such an expression as this from the Norfolk Landmark of Tuesday:

There is no use in raising a great howl about the devious tariff courses of Southern Democratic Congressmen. As long as the tariff is a game of chance, the majority of Congressmen from all parts of the country will be in it.

Of in this form the Petersburg Index-Appeal of yesterday:

It is something—it shows progress in the right direction—that the Senator demands for his section its fair portion of the "plunder from protection."

If the vote of Virginia's Democratic Senators for taxed iron ore has aroused a shade more protest than the no more defensible votes of Virginia's Democratic Congressmen, that is doubtless because the iron ore interests in the State are not so strong as some other interests. Still, any protest is welcome, however belated, however out of tune with previous utterances, or lack of them. It is refreshing to find the Newport News Press, for example, declaring that "had the Democrats in the Senate stood upon their national platform," they would have put their party in a splendid position next fall, and insisting that "every so-called Democrat who has proved false to his trust" shall pay for his conduct with his seat. The one weakness in the Press's otherwise strong position is the difficulty it will have in harmonizing it with its staunch support of its own Congressman, whose vote for the ship subsidy bill was fully as repugnant to his party platform as any thing done by the Democrats in the Senate.

The time to protest against false Democratic representatives was when Democratic representatives began to be false. If our contemporaries in the State had seen fit to join The Times-Dispatch in denouncing this faithless mess when it first showed itself in Virginia last December, they could unquestionably have suppressed it; and they might have played a fine part in moulding the immediate future of their party.

TWO LIVE VIRGINIA TOWNS.

The outflow of population from Virginia, to which The Times-Dispatch has recently directed attention, manifestly springs from some form of dis-

content. Thoroughly satisfied people do not leave home or go pushing out into the unknown West. But it is certain this discontent is often based on ignorance—ignorance of conditions elsewhere and, hardly less, of conditions at home. Every influence that tends to dispel this ignorance tends to decrease emigration. To remind Virginia of the resources and advantages of their own State and even of their own communities is often to keep them in Virginia.

It is evident that the newspapers of the State can do a great work in this way, and some of them are doing it. We have at hand the "prosperity" editions of two progressive journals, the Buena Vista Times and the new Emporia semi-weekly. The Independent, these handsome and well-printed issues do full justice to the live communities they represent. The industries of Buena Vista and Emporia are set forth fully, and a very gratifying array they make. No resident could read either of these records without a sense of pride in his town, and no outsider could read them without being most favorably impressed. If one word of criticism might be offered without offense, we should say that both of these excellent papers would have been improved by a fuller setting forth of the opportunities now lying ready for new capital. The Times appears to give no information under this head, and The Independent, while handling it attractively in its editorial column, might well have extended its summary at greater length in its news pages. A conspicuous feature of all such issues, it seems to us, should be a definite list of the particular industries needed in the community and likely to thrive there. Opportunity is what capital is seeking, rather than the record of things already done. But the staffs of The Times and The Independent have done their work well, and their papers reflect two communities certainly destined to expand and prosper largely.

RICHMOND'S SLOW PROGRESS TOWARD BETTER GOVERNMENT.

The public hearings of the special committee on a change in the form of our city government must be regarded as a failure. This was due in no sense to the committee, but to the lack of any keen public interest in the important problem which the committee was appointed to consider. If we seek an explanation for this apathy we shall find it no doubt in the general honesty of our City Council. The surest beginning of reform is shock. When the people of Des Moines arose, ejected their Council and installed a modern form of commission government they were acting under the strong impulse that comes from public indignation over public corruption. This impulse is lacking here. Our City Council is, in the nature of the case, cumbersome, dilatory and inefficient, but its reputation for morals is good. Few of our people are satisfied with its management of city affairs, but few, it seems, are so dissatisfied as to determine to see it wiped out and supplanted by something better. Moreover, it is nobody's business anyway.

Members of the Council who have unselfishly given their time to investigating simpler and more efficient forms of government with an eye to Richmond's needs must not be discouraged by the seeming indifference with which their efforts have been watched. The breakdown of municipal government in America, to which Mr. Bryce long ago directed attention, is due exactly to this same indifference. The price of any betterment is everlastingly keeping it at on the part of the few reformers. Besides, these men have a far stronger support than the visible signs might indicate. Probably four-fifths of the intelligent and thinking voters of Richmond would like to see the city governed under the commission plan. It is no less probable that we shall see this plan in full operation here one day, though the constitutional restrictions give Richmond a longer path to it than cities in other States have had to travel. Meantime, some immediate gain would accrue from a reduction of the size of the Council, a simple enough step. But it should be distinctly understood that this is a temporary expedient only, and not at all a permanent compromise. A ward-elected bicameral body, however small, is by no means equivalent to a commission, and the practical worth of the latter system can in no sense be judged by it.

TAX REFORM: SHOULD A NEW TAX BE NECESSARY.

In urging the reform of the present tax code of Virginia, and in suggesting the directions which that reform should take, this paper, it will have been observed, has not advocated the addition of a single tax to the present list. The reasons for this are simple. In the first place, our taxes are to-day as heavy as they can be without serious damage to the prosperity of several classes of property-holders. In the second place, new taxes are absolutely unnecessary, if the laws are to be executed with equity and justice. We have seen that if the assessments were made in the manner prescribed by law, instead of at an arbitrary valuation, the State would have a surplus without adding one cent to existing taxes.

On the other hand, The Times-Dispatch has advocated the removal of certain taxes, because of their manifest injustice and because they were double taxes or taxes on unreal values. Nor have we proposed any substitutes for these taxes, other than the equalization of assessments, believing that equal assessments will more than meet any possible deficit resulting from the removal of these taxes. If, however, by any contingency the next Legislature should fail to equalize assessments, while carrying out the other reforms, there would be a deficit of some \$300,000 in the treasury. To meet this deficiency, improbable as such a devel-

opment is, there would have to be some new tax levied in such a manner as to bear as lightly as possible on all classes of persons and property. Should the occasion demand new taxation in this way, the incorporation into the code of a direct inheritance tax would meet any possible deficit in the most satisfactory manner.

The present inheritance tax, it will be recalled, only relates to inheritance by collateral heirs (Acts 1902-04, c. 148, s. 44), and is levied at 5 per cent. Nevertheless, it netted \$38,337.28 during the last fiscal year. If this tax should be extended to cover direct inheritances, at 1 per cent, of their value, it will net the State a sum more than equal to the possible deficit resulting from the removal of other taxes. The experience of other States has shown the benefits from such a tax. New York annually collects a tax on Pennsylvania's return from the inheritance tax is over \$1,600,000. If the exemption rate be made small, say \$2,000, there is no reason why this tax should not make a very substantial increase to the revenues of the State.

The equalization of assessments through a tax commission is, as we have indicated, far preferable to the addition of this or any other tax, and should by all means be taken up by the next Assembly. Should assessments be left as they are, an inheritance tax will insure the State against any falling off in its revenues by removing some of the more obnoxious taxes now disgracing the statute books.

Some people are thinking that one of the chief advantages of the international cable system is Theodore Roosevelt.

"The truth is that the unwritten law ought also to have remained unpublished."

We take it for granted that one of the tariff's closest friends is the cost of living. These two move on the same plane, so to say.

Incidentally, consumption is making terrific inroads on some \$0,000,000 consumers.

Lord Roberts, the well-known international peace advocate, passionately declares that "our army is a sham." But not, we trust, my lord, a sofa pillow sham.

Anna Held announces that she will retire next year. So far as we recall, this will be the first retirement of Anna's career.

We beg to inform our esteemed contemporaries elsewhere that Scottville is, for the moment, the only taxless town in Virginia. At an early date, however, we intend to announce completed plans by which residents of all Virginia municipalities will not only be exempt from taxation, but will draw a regular salary from the Commissioners of Revenue.

It was the President's hard luck to pass through Richmond at that belated hour when our citizenry is just leaning up to choke off the alarm clock.

The whole course of contemporary legislation might have been changed if Nelson W. Aldrich had happened to be born with a thin skin.

Abe Erlanger has been mentioned for Mayor of New York. If Abe should ever be elected to this job, we know a certain weekly in New York which would have to come out on asbestos.

Forty-four gas-motors, out of 31,156 looked into by the New York Public Utilities Commission, were found to be correct. Even the most enterprising gas-companies make an occasional oversight.

The erection of a monument to Adam manifestly suggests the erection of a companion monument. Surely we cannot be mistaken in thinking that a number of Eve's descendants are still living.

We are quite sure Mr. Taft will agree that Virginia's handsome men are quite as much to be admired as the beautiful things in trousers it has ever had its singular good fortune to gaze upon.

Our specially retained government experts report to us that the Old Virginia strawberries are the only ones in the world intrinsically worth the restaurant price of 2 cents apiece.

We understand that there are men here in Fall River, Mass., who habitually refer to the process now going on in Washington as the tariff division.

SUNDAY AT CONEY ISLAND.

Lid Placed on Famous Amusement Park Under Protest.

That the people of this great cosmopolitan city do not want a "blue" Sunday has been demonstrated so often that it is accepted as an axiom by most intelligent observers.

The Sunday laws so far concerns popular movements are liberally interpreted in the most populous portions of the city, and the various amusements and excursions are not enforced. Why, then, attempt to "put the lid" on the working people on the only day of the week upon which they are free to seek innocent recreation with their families in the open air?

We have had too many of these spasmodic efforts to enforce impossible laws in the name of public sentiment—and without any law can be enforced. The great mass of Sunday visitors to Coney Island are not working people, but are accompanied by their wives and children, and their enjoyment of the various entertainments provided and their indulgence in a glass of beer—all perfectly harmless and innocent. To deprive them of the opportunity of this enjoyment would be cruel and would have a tendency to drive many into spending the day away from their families and in the back rooms of city saloons—for these are always open.

The purveyors of entertainment at Coney Island are not, however, intent on evading the law, but are merely trying to make the most of the situation. Such sporadic and vain efforts do no good, but on the contrary serve merely to bring disrespect for the law and those intrusted with its enforcement.—New York Herald.

If Health Brings Happiness Grape-Nuts Food Brings Both.

"There's a Reason"

Borrowed Jingles.

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

DAD'S HOMECOMING.

Pa at last the highway wins
 In the dark,
 And father, both his shins
 He doth bark
 For the hat rack now, you see,
 Isn't where it used to be.

Pa his way doth slowly make;
 Steps upon Milky cake,
 Drat the soap!
 Then we hear a heavy fall,
 Followed by a plaintive call.

Ma, a cleaning day has had,
 Bled his shins a very red,
 But she failed to furnish dad
 With a chair.

Pa, from overhead:
 Let us pilot and to bed,
 —Kansas City Journal.

MERELY JOKING.

More Libel.
 "I see the phrase, 'eccentric comedian' as good a description of a humorist as 'well'."

"What is an eccentric comedian?"
 "Well, he's a fellow who won't talk about himself!"
 —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Some Sentences.

"Were you ever surrounded by wolves?"
 "No; but I used to open the door from doors at a summer hotel."—Pittsburg Post.

Over the Handle Bars.

"Is one apt to get bruised in learning to ride the bicycle?"
 "Not if you make it a rule to stop when the bicycle stops."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"What do you mean?"
 "Some riders keep on going."—Kansas City Journal.

Mok.

"Is that water you are using well water?"
 "I guess so, it's rather hard, but it's good." "I don't see how it could be exactly well with all the germs the doctors say it has in it."—Washington Star.

Another Excuse.

"The foolhard man has just killed the goose that laid the golden egg." "Why did you kill it?" asked the friends. "I killed it because its 'honk-honk' sounded like an automobile I couldn't sleep."—Chicago Record-Herald.

In A. D. 1930.

"John, are you nearly through in here?" "Yes, sir."
 "Well, when you get through, go out and spread the news under room No. 3092. Mr. Jones has fallen from the top story."—Harper's Weekly.

PERNITENT POINTS.

MOTHER'S DAY has long been established in the calendar of the nation. If you do not think that it is Mother's Day, ask father.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

—Mr. Erlanger, of the theatrical firm, has been suggested for Mayor of New York.

—The Boston Herald.

A Kansas City paper is printing Owen

"Well, when you get through, go out and spread the news under room No. 3092. Mr. Jones has fallen from the top story."—Harper's Weekly.

There are two occasions when the most

valorous man is likely to prevaricate: when he tells a love romance or a hunting story.—Paris Figaro.

The most important fact for the tariff

makers in Washington to remember is that the tariff is a long which does not commend itself to long which does not commend itself to long which does not commend itself to long.

T. R., better known in Africa as "Bwana

"Bwana," or "portly man," is said to have been a "portly man" in Africa.

Nothing in the world could have kept him

from it.—Washington Herald.

OUR RAILWAY SYSTEM.

Interesting Figures Show Phenomenal Development in Transportation Lines.

In view of the fact that the welfare of the country is largely dependent on the vast system of railways with which it is covered, the annual statement of the railways and a comparison of these with the records of earlier years are of never-failing interest.

We have before us the railway statistics of this country as prepared by Mr. Sisson Thompson, of the Bureau of Railway News and Statistics, in which the standing of our railway system in the world is shown by their condition in the two previous decades.

At the close of the fiscal year 1903 the total number of miles of railway in the United States was 230,000, as compared with 138,883 in 1880 and 134,643 in 1870. The net capitalization is \$13,760,000,000, as compared with \$10,000,000,000 in 1880. The gross earnings for 1908 of \$2,448,835,000 were an increase of 18.83 per cent over the total of 1880. The net earnings for 1908 were \$1,348,835,000, an increase of 18.83 per cent over the total of 1880.

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The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

Prince Paul Demidoff's Death.

PRINCE PAUL DEMIDOFF, whose death has just taken place in Paris, is a Russian nobleman who was distinguished by a good deal of pomp and ceremony at the Muscovite Court. He was a member of the Imperial Russian family, and his father, Count Demidoff, was a member of the Imperial Russian family. He was a member of the Imperial Russian family, and his father, Count Demidoff, was a member of the Imperial Russian family.

The dignity of Prince of San Donato is a title which was bestowed in 1859 by the then reigning Grand Duke of Tuscany upon Count Demidoff, on the occasion of the latter's marriage to Princess Maria Alexandrovna, who was a daughter of the Emperor Alexander II. Prince Demidoff was a member of the Imperial Russian family, and his father, Count Demidoff, was a member of the Imperial Russian family.

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Hunyadi Janos

Best Natural Laxative Water

Is Nature's own remedy for common ills, such as torpid liver, indigestion and disorder of the bowels. Its action is speedy, sure and gentle, without leaving any bad after effects. It is cordially recommended by the best Physicians and its extensive use has proved its worth for nearly half a century in its best recommendation. Try it and judge for yourself when you suffer from

CONSTIPATION

of the White Knight has been extinct, but the Knights of Glyn and Kerry have each continued without a single break from father to son through all the last 700 years.

Desmond Fitzgerald, the Knight of Glyn, has no baronetcy, and though he is a member of the House of Commons, he is not a member of the House of Commons.

The Knight of Kerry received a baronetcy about thirty years ago, but he is not a member of the House of Commons.

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